GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1235
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2016
Indian and Foreign Channels
Sanjar Shri Alok

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) The number of news, entertainment, religion, sports and health television channels in the country including the Indian and Foreign Channels out of these, name and country-wise;
(b) Whether cable guidelines have been prepared regarding operation of television channels and if so, whether any law has been enacted in this regard;
(c) If so, the details thereof;
(d) Whether any law exists for checking the broadcast of anti-national news or incidents; and
(e) Is so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER O F STATE I N THE MINISTRY O F INFORMATION & BROADCASTING, [COL RAJYAVARDHAN RATHODE (RETD.)]

(a): Ministry of Information and Broadcasting grants permission under two categories i.e. Non-News & Current Affairs and News & Current Affairs TV channels in accordance with the Policy Guidelines for Uplinking/Downlinking of Satellite TV channels in India and does not mandate any particular genre or content within the above categories. As on date (31.10.2016) Ministry has permitted 881 TV channels out of which 482 channels are under News & Current Affairs category and 399 channels are under Non-News and Current Affairs category. The list of permitted channels is available on Ministry's website i.e.
www.mib.nic.in. Out of 881 channels, there are 89 satellite TV channels permitted to

downlink in India. Their country-wise details are enclosed at Annexure.

(b)to (e): As per existing regulatory framework, the telecast of content on private satellite TV channels is regulated as per Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Cable Television Network Rules, 1994 framed thereunder. The Act does not provide for
pre-censorship of any programmes and advertisements telecast on such TV channels. However, it prescribes that all programmes and advertisements telecast on such TV channels should be in conformity with the prescribed Programme Code and Advertising Code enshrined in the aforesaid Act and the rules framed thereunder. The said codes contain a whole range of parameters to regulate programmes and advertisements on such TV channels including telecast of anti-national news or incidents. In this regard, Specific provision made in the Programme Code is given as under:
Rule 6(e) provides that no programme should be carried in the cable service which is likely to encourage or incite violence or contains anything against maintenance of law and order or which promote anti-national attitudes.
It is further stated that on the issue of coverage of terror-related operations by TV channels, this Ministry issued a Gazette Notification No. GSR 216(E) on 21.3.2015 whereby Cable Television Networks Rules, 1994 were amended and clause (p) has been inserted in the Programme Code which is as under:
Rule (p): No programme should be carried in the cable service which contains live coverage of any anti-terrorist operation by security forces, wherein media coverage shall be restricted to periodic briefing by an officer designated by the appropriate Government, till such operation concludes.
Explanation: - For the purposes of this clause, it is clarified that "anti-terrorist operation" means such operation undertaken to bring terrorists to justice, which includes all engagements involving justifiable use of force between security forces and terrorists.
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